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New California City Built for Sustainability

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 [Quay Valley.jpg](#) ^[1]

California has long been the U.S. leader in clean technology development and currently leads the nation in green-tech jobs.

From landmark legislation like the [Global Warming Solutions Act](#) ^[2] (AB 32) to headquartering clean tech companies like Tesla and SolarCity, California's green jobs sector is growing many times faster than the rest of the state's economy.

California green businesses have increased 45 percent in number and 36 percent in employment from 1995 to 2008 while total jobs in California expanded only 13 percent. As the economy slowed between 2007 and 2008, total employment fell 1 percent, but green jobs continued to grow five percent. The Sacramento Area led the pack with job growth of 87 percent from 1995 to 2008, followed by the San Diego Region (57 percent), the Bay Area (51 percent), and Orange County and Inland Empire (50 percent). - [Next 10](#) ^[3]

In 2008, of the top 50 cities ranked by [SustainLane](#) ^[4] for sustainability, 8 were in California, with San Francisco taking the number two spot behind Portland, Oregon. My current hometown of Santa Monica was the first in the nation to purchase "green" energy produced from non-polluting geothermal sources in Central California and has plans to become completely energy independent.

Now a team lead by [The Galloway Group](#) ^[5] is planning to create a sustainable community, Quay Valley, on over 13,000 acres in California's Central Valley, one hour from the world-renowned wine region of Paso Robles and half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

While cities like [Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm](#) ^[6] and [Chicago](#) ^[7] are going green, Quay Valley is starting out that way.

The planning for Quay Valley is grounded on the principles of smart growth, sustainability, environmental responsibility and New Urbanism combined to create a new development concept—"New Ruralism." Simply put, our goal is to create a community that not only enhances the quality of life for people today, but also ensures that the needs of future generations can be met. It is a common sense approach that understands that meeting the San Joaquin Valley's population growth will require the creation of entirely new towns—and that those towns must be self-sustaining, providing for the long-term viability of the community's natural resources and its social and economic systems.

The plans include the re-introduction of native flora and habitats, high efficiency water reclamation and reuse, energy efficient buildings powered by solar energy and organic farming. A 50-acre onsite research ranch, established in 2007, is the testing ground for new methods and systems which are helping to determine what may work best for the build-out of Quay Valley, including irrigation techniques and the development of water eco-systems.

"Quay Valley is not just about an entertainment destination. It's about a beautiful, affordable community for the Central Valley," says Master Planner Ken Brindley. "The intention is to

develop a totally sustainable town. We're investigating every type of alternative energy."

These plans include 50,000 homes that are 100% powered by solar energy, the equivalent of a 600 megawatt power plant. Developers say "as proposed, Quay Valley residents may never have an electric bill."

The community is expected to be home to 150,000 residents with 30 schools and 45,000 new jobs. It will also have shopping areas and a 42,000 seat international speedway venue to draw tourists and visitors. If successful, it may become a model for other sustainable cities in California and across the country.

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